

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) An adhesive sheet for microbial testing, which comprises at least a substrate and an adhesive layer, which adhesive layer is compression-bonded to, and peeled from, the surface of a test article to collect microorganisms, and the surface of which is then subjected to image analysis, wherein a marker for focusing the image (focusing marker) is provided in the substrate, or in the adhesive layer, or on the surface thereof.

2. (Original) The adhesive sheet for microbial testing of claim 1, wherein the substrate and/or the adhesive layer are/is a multilayer including a layer comprising a focusing marker.

3. (Currently Amended) The adhesive sheet for microbial testing of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the focusing marker is an insoluble particle with an average particle size of 0.2 to 200 μm .

4. (Currently Amended) The adhesive sheet for microbial testing of claim ~~3~~ 2, wherein the focusing marker is an insoluble particle with an average particle size of ~~0.5~~ 0.2 to 200 μm .

5 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (New) The adhesive sheet for microbial testing of claim 1, wherein the focusing marker is an insoluble particle with an average particle size of 0.5 to 200 μm .

10. (New) The adhesive sheet for microbial testing of claim 2, wherein the focusing marker is an insoluble particle with an average particle size of 0.5 to 200 μm .

11. (New) The adhesive sheet for microbial testing of claim 1, wherein the focusing marker on the substrate surface is an undulation pattern of 0.1 to 20 μm depth or a printed pattern with a color variation in the image used for focusing.

12. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 1, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

13. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 2, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

14. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 3, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

15. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 4, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

16. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 9, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

17. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 10, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

18. (New) The adhesive sheet of claim 11, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.

19. (New) A kit for microbial testing, which comprises an aqueous solution comprising one or more kinds of color developing substances capable of staining a microorganism and an adhesive sheet for microbial testing, which comprises at least a substrate and an adhesive layer, which adhesive layer is compression-bonded to, and peeled from, the surface of a test article to collect microorganisms, and the surface of which is then subjected to image analysis, wherein a marker for focusing the image (focusing marker) is provided in the substrate, or in the adhesive layer, or on the surface thereof.

20. (New) The kit of claim 19, wherein the color-developing substance is a fluorescent material.

21. (New) The kit of claim 19, wherein the substrate and/or the adhesive layer are/is a multilayer including a layer comprising a focusing marker.

22. (New) The kit of claim 21, wherein the focusing marker is an insoluble particle with an average particle size of 0.2 to 200 μm .

23. (New) The kit of claim 19, wherein the focusing marker on the substrate surface is an undulation pattern of 0.1 to 20 μm depth or a printed pattern with a color variation in the image used for focusing.

24. (New) The kit of claim 19, wherein the smoothness (difference between concave and convex) of the surface of the adhesive layer of the adhesive sheet for microbial testing is smaller than the depth of the field of the optical system.